To the Chairman
of the Urban District Council of
Brumby and Frodingham.

Sir,

In handing you herewith my fourth annual report on the Health of the Brumby & Frodingham Urban District, I beg to say that it is made according to the requirements of the Local Government Board's General Order of March 1891, and is for the year ending Dec.r 31.st 1898.

I am
Sir
Your obedient servant
M. R. J. Behrendt,
M.O.H.

Scunthorpe
via Doncaster
March 9.th 1899.

Report on the Health of the Urban District of Brumby and Frodingham. (1898)

Infectious and Zymotic Diseases.

A. Notifiable :— The register of notifications contains 64 entries relating to Enteric Fever, Erysipelas, Puerperal Fever, & Scarlatina.

(1) Enteric Fever — 10 cases, 2 in Brumby & 8 in Frodingham. The first case occurred in Lygon Street, New Brumby. The house is a new one, the whole street being the newest in the district. The next case occurred in Old Brumby. The patients in both cases were men employed in some branch of the iron-industry. Between Sept.r 30.th & Oct.r 4.th, 5 cases were notified occurring at Redbourne Hill. On Oct.r 20.th a cases was reported at 2.nd Street North, in Frodingham, & on Oct.r 30.th, 2 more at Redbourne Hill.

(2) Erysipelas — 5 cases, all in Frodingham.

(3) Puerperal Fever — 1 case was notified at Chapel Street, New Brumby.

(4) Scarlatina — 45 cases in 28 houses. There were 21 cases in Brumby & 27 in Frodingham. 2 cases were reported in Jan.y, 1 in August, 2 in Sept.r, 18 in Oct.r, 9 in Nov.r; & 16 in Dec.r.—

B. Not Notifiable : —(1) Whooping Cough — a number of cases occurred in the last months of the year, & 1 death was registered as due to it.

(2) Diarrhoea — only 1 death was registered from this cause, & the district seems to have been remarkably free from this form of disease.

(3) Phthisis — 2 deaths were registered from this cause.

(4) Acute Pneumonia – 1 death has been registered as due to this disease.

Other Diseases.

The number of deaths from diseases of the organs of breathing was 5. + Cancer is responsible for 2 deaths.

Prevention of Disease.

Houses where infectious disease was known to exist or suspected, were visited. Disinfectants, where necessary, were supplied. Such measures as were possible were taken for limiting the spreading of the disease. Lists of children suffering from infectious disorders were sent to the school teachers, + they were requested to exclude all members of the families to which those children belonged. They were also asked to exclude children who seemed out of sorts + presented suspicious symptoms, + report having done so, in order that they might be visited to ascertain the existence or not of infectious disease. The parents of the sick children were ordered to keep all other members of the family from school, + from intercourse with children of other households. Isolation of the sick from the healthy in the same house was from the circumstances of the people practically quite impossible. Disinfection of houses, clothing + bedding is also impossible.

Inspection of the District.

This has been made from time to time. As a result various nuisances were found to exist + have been by orders of the Council removed. At the Trentside a farm house was found in part to have a very defective roof, causing a bedchamber to be very damp + unhealthy, + to this undoubtedly had been due illness among its occupants. On being reported, the Council directed certain orders to be made on the owner, which having been complied with, the premises have been put into good repair, + made habitable. Two more of the old filthy type of ashpits have been done away with. There should now be very few, if any of these remaining. As a result of the inspections of the district, + the reports + action following thereon a further improvement in the sanitary condition of the district has been made during the year. – A tabular statement of the work in the inspectors department is appended to this report.

Statistical.

The total area of the district is 4053 acres; viz Brumby 3034 + Frodingham 1019. – The number of inhabited houses is 437. – The number of inhabitants estimated to June 30th was about 2363, of which 834 are in Brumby + 1529 in Frodingham. – The number of births registered in the year was 91; viz Brumby 40 + Frodingham 51. Of these births 35 were boys, + 56 girls. The number of deaths was 44; viz Brumby 12 + Frodingham 32. There died 30 males + 14 females. – The number of infants who died under 1 year old was 12. Among the deaths there are 3 of persons not belonging to the district + 2 of these were from accident.

The birth rate for the district was equal to one of 38·5 per 1000, & the death rate 18·6 as corrected for the deaths of strangers 17·3 per 1000 of population. The infantile mortality was 131·8 per 1000 births.

Concluding Remarks.

Considering the amount of diarrhoea in the neighbouring district & the fatality from it when affecting infants, it is remarkable that only one death has been registered in this district as due to diarrhoea.

As to Enteric Fever, a number of circumstances combine to point to drinking water as the source of the cases reported during the year. At Redbourne Hill where most of the cases occurred, some defect in the pump compelled the people to give up their ordinary source of supply (a well on the common) & take water from a stand pipe at the back of the houses; this stand pipe is supplied with water from the goose hole. There were here however other matters to be taken note of. Redbourne Hill Cottages form a row of small houses built on the original ground level, the surrounding ground having been lowered by mining, the houses now have the appearance of being built on a long narrow ridge. On the slope of this ridge at the back of the yards, which are small & cramped, the tenants are in the habit of throwing refuse matter which undergoes decomposition & gives rise to nuisance. The yards have gullies, but there is no water to flush them, they therefore become foul. The closets are provided with boxes, but the arrangements for keeping these in a sanitary condition, & having their contents regularly removed have been defective. Steps have however been taken by the Council's order which it is to be hoped will bring about improvement.

There are in the district a number of dairies. These in the interest of the public health should not only be regularly inspected, but brought under such regulations, as will fairly warrant the healthiness of the sheds in which the cows are kept. This would best be attained by adopting the Dairies & Milkshops Order & framing regulations under it.

As already stated, isolation of sick persons suffering from infectious disease is practically impossible, & there is no sufficient means of disinfecting clothing & bedding. This leaves the district particularly vulnerable in case of an invasion of any dangerous epidemic disease. The "Isolation Hospitals Act" 1893 gives the County Council power to constitute "hospital districts". Application to constitute such districts can be made by a "local authority" or not less than twenty-five ratepayers in any "contributory place", as defined by that act. — The "Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act" 1890, contains very valuable clauses, the adoption of which would be of distinct advantage to the public health.

M. R. J. Behrendt
M.O.H.

The Inspector's Statement is as follows:

Inspections of premises	1402
Nuisances from:	
Faulty and foul ashpits (removed)	2
Defective drains "	3
Accumulation of refuse "	1
Defective gully traps "	5
Various causes "	16
Defective privy boxes "	17
From damp - defective roof of dwelling house	1
Orders served	27

All the matters included above were satisfactorily dealt with.

John Spavin
Inspector & Surveyor